

Supreme Court Orders Justice To Give Details on Black 'Bug'

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the Justice Department to give a detailed accounting of its actions in "bugging" the Washington hotel suite of business consultant Fred Black Jr. in 1963.

The Court demanded the names of the government officials who authorized the "bugging," a description of the device used, the law or Executive Order that permitted its installation, an accounting of the recordings that were made and how they were used, the names of the Justice Department lawyers who learned of the "bugging," and the date of their discovery.

The answers supplied by Justice may determine whether Black's conviction for income tax evasion will be overturned.

At the time the "bug" was installed in Black's suite at the Sheraton-Carlton, Black was a neighbor of then Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson and was a business associate of Robert G. (Bobby) Baker, former secretary to the Democrats in the Senate. Robert F. Kennedy was the Attorney General.

Black's appeal to the Supreme Court to overturn the conviction was denied on May 2. But on May 24, in an extraordinary confession to the Court, Solicitor General Thurgood Marshall admitted that Black's suite had been "bugged" by the FBI. This confession produced yesterday's blunt court order.



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FRED B. BLACK JR.
... who bugged him?